

Twentieth Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

OF

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS



1935-1936

OFFICES

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET

BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

Twentieth Annual Report

MARYLAND STATE BOARD

OF

MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

1935-1936

BEN PAUL SANDY, D. D. S.
Chairman

VERA B. PHOEBUS
Vice-Chairman and Treasurer

MARIE WHITE PRESSTMAN
Secretary

HELEN L. ODOM
Chief Clerk

OFFICES

211 NORTH CALVERT STREET
BALTIMORE - MARYLAND

HON. HARRY W. NICE,
Governor of Maryland,
Annapolis, Maryland.

DEAR GOVERNOR NICE:

In compliance with law and custom the State Board of Motion Picture Censors makes the following report of its work for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1935, and ending September 30, 1936.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Board has reviewed during the above period 2,262 motion picture films. This number includes 138 "re-issues" which by law must be considered "originals" following a period of one year after their release in the State.

The number of duplicate films submitted during the same period was 9,561. These films are duplicates of any subjects submitted "within the year after the examination and approval of the original film."

Of the above, 11,262 films were approved, 7 rejected, and 554 approved with eliminations. Five of the rejected films were finally passed in reconstructed form, one by order of the Court.

The year has shown a large increase in the number of foreign films reviewed.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD

The work of the Board is carried on at offices located at 211 North Calvert Street. All motion pictures submitted for censorship are screened in the projection room of the Board. The members of the Board personally review each film, the entire Board acting on such as are of a controversial character. The Board rescreens many subjects, frequently making suggestions for reconstruction or revision of films which otherwise would be found totally unfit for exhibition. If the applicant is dissatisfied, he may appeal to the Board and require

a re-examination in the presence of himself or his representative by two or more members of the Board. In the event that he is not satisfied with the Board's decision, he may appeal to the Baltimore City Court. Only one such appeal was taken during the past year.

A total of 32,164,544 feet of film passed through the office during the year. Two motion picture operators and one assistant are constantly employed projecting films on the screen.

The Board employs five paid inspectors whose duty it is to visit all motion picture theatres in the State for the purpose of ascertaining that films exhibited in Maryland show the approval seal of the Board and that deletions ordered by the Board are properly made.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The itemized statement appended to the report shows that the receipts from fees and the sale of substitute seals amounted to \$44,073.00, as compared with \$39,463.00 for the preceding year. The expenditures of the Board were \$28,927.98, as compared with \$27,577.76 for 1935. The net revenue to the State after deducting cost of operations was \$15,145.02.

Respectfully submitted,

BEN PAUL SANDY, D. D. S., *Chairman*

VERA B. PHOEBUS, *Vice-Chairman*

MARIE W. PRESSTMAN, *Secretary*

December 31, 1936

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1936

RECEIPTS

FEES:

Original Reels (6,006,966 feet).....	\$13,538.00	
Duplicate Reels (26,157,578 feet).....	29,188.00	
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,447).....	1,447.00	
		<u>\$44,073.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS:

Remitted to State Treasurer.....	<u>\$44,073.00</u>
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EXPENSES

Salary and Wages.....	\$21,380.20	
Office Supplies and Stationery.....	287.99	
Printing.....	259.75	
Film Approval Seals.....	1,215.60	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies.....	108.06	
Light, Heat, Power and Water.....	271.50	
Traveling	672.39	
Communication	452.18	
Insurance	82.50	
Office Equipment.....	1,273.08	
Motion Picture Equipment.....	644.73	
Rent	2,280.00	
		<u>\$28,927.98</u>

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 1936

BUDGET ACCOUNT (PER COMPTROLLER)

Appropriation, 1936.....	\$28,867.00	
Additional Appropriation from the Board of Public Works.....	2,225.00	
Refunds to Credit of Budget.....	18.85	
	<u> </u>	\$31,110.85
Less—Disbursements by the State Treasurer for Expenses.....		<u>28,927.98</u>
Unexpended Balance, September 30, 1936:		
Return to Reserve Fund of the Board of Public Works.....		<u>\$2,182.87</u>

WORKING FUND

Total Working Fund on Deposit, Union Trust Company, September 30, 1936	<u>\$369.00</u>
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MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED

October 1, 1935—September 30, 1936

	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
October . . .	208	825	697	2,767	597,950	2,378,510	983	3	47
November . .	196	785	620	2,579	525,862	2,185,438	888	0	93
December . .	181	770	594	2,466	511,815	2,088,928	868	0	83
January . . .	201	822	654	2,599	549,420	2,313,304	953	1	69
February . .	180	791	601	2,558	515,504	2,156,710	906	0	65
March	195	857	601	2,714	501,973	2,362,345	1,001	0	51
April	179	785	560	2,347	474,350	1,914,894	928	2	34
May	201	734	610	2,393	502,130	2,121,943	921	0	14
June	172	822	521	2,716	437,301	2,299,693	958	1	35
July	163	754	470	2,216	410,337	1,886,726	897	0	20
August	209	739	621	2,335	522,214	2,007,304	928	0	20
September . .	177	877	568	3,021	458,110	2,441,783	1,031	0	23
	2,262	9,561	7,117	30,711	6,006,966	26,157,578	11,262	*7	554

* Six later passed in reconstructed form.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original	2,262			
Films, Duplicate	9,561			
Reels, Original		7,117		
Reels, Duplicate		30,711		
Number of Feet, Original			6,006,966	
Number of Feet, Duplicate			26,157,578	
Films Approved				11,262
Films Rejected				7
Films Eliminated				554
	11,823	37,828	32,164,544	11,823

CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS
October 1, 1935—September 30, 1936

	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Advertising	Miscellaneous
October.....	310	262	361	55	3	42
November.....	259	257	361	40	4	60
December.....	276	192	364	57	12	50
January.....	287	223	387	50	9	67
February.....	276	203	362	71	4	55
March.....	306	229	366	77	16	58
April.....	240	205	375	78	5	61
May.....	267	191	330	67	25	55
June.....	277	187	374	74	10	72
July.....	238	164	377	58	8	72
August.....	261	151	350	65	21	100
September.....	317	190	372	87	12	76
	3,314	2,454	4,379	779	129	768

ELIMINATIONS
October 1, 1935—September 30, 1936

	Dramas Eliminated	Comedies Eliminated	News Reels Eliminated	Cartoons Eliminated	Advertising Eliminated	Miscellaneous Eliminated
October.....	47	0	0	0	0	0
November.....	93	0	0	0	0	0
December.....	81	2	0	0	0	0
January.....	64	5	0	0	0	3
February.....	56	6	0	0	0	0
March.....	49	1	0	0	0	1
April.....	21	11	0	2	0	0
May.....	10	1	0	3	0	0
June.....	35	0	0	0	0	0
July.....	19	0	0	0	1	0
August.....	20	0	0	0	0	0
September.....	23	0	0	0	0	0
	518	26	0	5	1	4

PROSECUTIONS

Name of Film	Theatre	Date	Charge	Court Action
Birth	Gayety Theatre	6/9/36	Misleading Ad- vertisements, etc.	Dismissed